

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A connecting construction for components of a system frame, comprising:
 - a framework having frame struts and a cross bracket connecting the frame struts,
 - a sheet steel corner plate which is arranged in each region in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts and which has a corner recess in the corner region of the plate in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts,
 - a coupling unit that is connectable to the frame strut via the sheet steel corner plate,
 - a further recess in the sheet steel corner plate approximately level with the corner recess and offset inward,
 - a further coupling unit having a first coupling element and a second coupling element,
 - wherein the first coupling element is connectable to a frame tube,
 - wherein the second coupling element is fastenable in the further recess of the sheet steel corner plate with at least one of a positive and non-positive fit, and has a spacer profile and a projecting profile arranged on the free end side of the spacer profile, said projecting profile[.,.] being connectable in the further recess of the sheet steel corner plate with at least one of a positive and non-positive fit.
3. (Currently Amended) The connecting construction as claimed in claim 2, the projecting profile is a hammer head and the further recess is a slot so that in order to connect the further coupling unit to the sheet steel corner plate, the projecting profile can be introduced into the further recess as far as a stop of the spacer profile and the at least one of a positive and non-positive fit is produced by rotation of the further coupling unit by said rotation causing the hammer head of the projecting profile to engage at least in some area behind the sheet steel corner plate.

4. (Previously Presented) The connecting construction as claimed in claim 3, wherein the slot is arranged vertically upright.
5. (Previously Presented) The connecting construction as claimed in claim 3, wherein the slot is arranged horizontally.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Currently Amended) A coupling apparatus for a frame system, comprising a framework having frame struts and a cross bracket connecting the frame struts, a sheet steel corner plate which is arranged in each case if the region in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts and which has a corner recess in the corner region of the plate in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts, and a further recess in the sheet steel corner plate approximately level with the corner recess and offset inward, the coupling apparatus further comprising:
first and second coupling units, the first coupling unit being connectable to the frame strut via the sheet steel corner plate, and the second coupling unit being provided with a first coupling element and a second coupling element; and

a frame tube that is connectable to the first coupling element, wherein the second coupling element is fastenable in the further recess of a the sheet steel corner plate with at least one of a positive and non-positive fit, and the second coupling element has a spacer profile and a projecting profile arranged on the free end side of the spacer profile, said projecting profile being connectable into the further recess of the sheet steel corner plate with at least one of a positive and non-positive fit.

18. (Currently Amended) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the projecting profile is a hammer head so that, in order to connect the second coupling unit to the sheet steel corner plate, the projecting profile can be introduced into the further recess as far as the stop of the spacer profile and the at least one of a positive and non-positive fit is produced by rotation of the first coupling unit by said rotation causing the hammer head of the projecting profile to engage at least in some area behind the sheet steel corner plate.
19. (Previously presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the first coupling element of the second coupling unit is a tube half-coupling.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Previously presented) The coupling unit as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that
 - the length of a connecting profile is selected in such a manner that the clear distance of a the frame tube, which is connected parallel to the cross bracket in the first coupling element unit of the further coupling unit, from the sheet steel corner plate is greater than the length of the maximum projecting length relative to the sheet steel corner plate of a coupling unit arranged in the corner recess.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A coupling apparatus for a frame system in a scaffolding, comprising a framework having frame struts and a cross bracket connecting the frame struts, a sheet steel corner plate which is arranged in each corner region in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts and which has a corner recess in the corner region of the plate in which the cross bracket is connected to one of the frame struts, and a further recess in the sheet steel corner plate approximately level with the corner recess and offset inward, the coupling apparatus further comprising:

first and second coupling units, wherein the first coupling unit is connectable to the frame strut via the sheet steel corner plate, and the second coupling unit is provided with a first coupling element and a second coupling element;

a frame tube that is connectable to the first coupling element, wherein the second coupling element is fastenable in the further recess of the sheet steel corner plate with ~~at least~~ one of a positive and non-positive fit; and

wherein the length of a connecting profile is selected in such a manner that the clear distance of the frame tube, which is connected parallel to the cross bracket in the first coupling ~~unit~~ element of the ~~further~~ second coupling unit, from the sheet steel corner plate is greater than the length of the maximum projecting length relative to the sheet steel corner plate of [[a]] the first coupling unit arranged in the corner recess.